

# Pearl O' Wisdom

## COMMERCIAL DESCRIPTION

"The old lady they call the Cornish witch?" "Yeah, she's such a vibe, Granny Pearl!"

In a farmhouse on the Lizard, teenager Rose cares for an old lady called Pearl. But it's not just Pearl's humour that is breaking boundaries, turns out this old lady can break through boundaries into otherworlds too! Suddenly, mischievous sprites are urging the old lady to share her story and bewildered Rose is taken on a time-travel adventure back to Cornwall in the 1930s and '40s, through Pearl's childhood and adolescence.

But Pearl harbours a painful secret. And Rose is trying to decipher the messages of the sprites. What happened at the standing stone? Who is the boy caught in the betwixt and the between? And why is Rose, of all people, on this journey?

Tamara Rosenwyn's play reveals that with inner grit, time and a deep dig into the soul, pearls of wisdom can be formed!

Perfect for age 11+

## "BRIEF" PLOT SUMMARY

Set in the present day, Rose is a dedicated teen carer for Pearl, a spirited 100 year old woman with a sharp wit and a humorous outlook on life. Pearl frequently jokes that she's ready to pass on now that she's reached the "ripe old age" of 100, though the mischievous sprites around her seem intent on preventing that.

When Rose witnesses Pearl transform before her eyes, reverting to her 21-year-old self, her world is turned upside down. In that moment, she realises not only the existence of mythical sprites but also that there is an Otherworld—a realm accessible through imagination. As Rose navigates this disorienting new reality, she learns that she has a deeper purpose to fulfill.

Guided by the youthful and vibrant version of Pearl, Rose is transported back in time to 1935 Cornwall, where she meets 11 year old Pearl (Little Pearl) and witnesses the hardships of her early life. Through these travels, Rose learns of the trauma Pearl endured under the oppressive rule of her mother—a woman who is represented as a wailing banshee and is trapped in a place known as the "Betwixt and Between," a realm for spirits that remain unfinished in the earthly world. There, Rose also encounters Martin, Pearl's childhood sweetheart, who after experiencing the horrors of World War II, is now a man haunted by trauma.

As the story unfolds, Rose uncovers the deep bond between young Pearl and Martin, both of whom share a rebellious spirit and a yearning for freedom, despite societal pressures. Pearl's mother forbids their friendship, deeming Martin—son of the family's farmhand—unworthy of her daughter's time. This defiance leads the two to explore witchcraft and pagan rituals, hoping to escape their respective constraints. In their pursuit of immortality and liberation, they unknowingly set in motion tragic consequences. Martin becomes trapped in time due to his PTSD, while Pearl's mother, whom she sought to escape, continues to haunt her dreams.

As Rose delves deeper into the past, she uncovers that Pearl's mother never recovered from the traumatic disappearance of Pearl's father, who went missing at sea.

In the present day, Rose struggles with her own sense of purpose. As a carer with aspirations of becoming a writer, she longs for something more meaningful than the mundane routines of modern life. Her connection to Pearl, further strengthened by her best friend Jago—Pearl's grandson—adds to her growing sense that there is more to life than what is immediately apparent. Bound by confidentiality, Rose is unable to share her extraordinary experiences with anyone, yet she begins to realise that these revelations may hold the key to both healing and understanding.

Through her journey, Rose learns to embrace self-visualisation and manifestation—concepts she picked up from social media—and, in turn, helps Pearl heal from her past. The story reveals that the veil between worlds is thinner than we think, and that our lives are intertwined across time. Ultimately, Rose discovers that we already possess all the stories we need; it is only by reconnecting with our inner child and allowing our imagination to flourish that we can unlock them.

## KEY THEMES

Triumph of Good Over Evil, Connection Between Humans and Nature, Magic, Celtic mythology, Paganism, Cornish, Otherworld, Imagination, Health care, Modernity vs Tradition, Self-discovery, Healing Past Traumas and Emotional Wounds.

## MOTIFS

One tall menhir, a wailing banshee of her Mother's spirit, sprites, witchcraft, modern healthcare (medication, pads, gloves, electronic tablet), health care uniform (worn by Rose) a four poster bed in which Pearl sleeps, the cliffs and sea, a big cob Cornish farmhouse with a thatched roof, full moon, 1930s and 1940s in Cornish village, sunday school, a sunken fishing boat (belonged to Pearl's father).

'The Cornish drolls are dead, each one;  
The fairies from their haunts  
have gone: There's scarce a witch in all the land,  
The world has  
grown so learn'd and grand.'

Written by Henry Quick, Zennor poet (1792-1857)